

## City's 1st 'School Without Walls' Opens Door to 30: City's First 'School Without Walls' Opens Doors...

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# City's 1st 'School Without Walls' Opens Door to 30

By Gayle Tunnell

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Thirty of Washington's 10,000 10th-graders began attending the District's first—and the nation's third—"school without walls" yesterday.

The idea behind the school, based in a small suite of offices on the 12th floor of a building at 1411 K St. NW, is that there are better ways of educating than simply putting stu-

dents and teachers off by themselves in a school building every day.

Instead, the "school without walls" intends to use the District of Columbia, with its museums, government offices and universities, as its classroom. The city's people—its scholars, small businessmen, white and blue-collar workers—will supplement the professional teaching staff.

Up to 75 students in the 10th grade from the city's 11

high schools will be enrolled this year, according to M. Patricia Goins, the new school's principal.

Plans for next year call for about 200 10th and 11th graders. Twelfth grade will be added the year after that.

Once the school is fully operating with all three grades, it will serve as a working blueprint for setting up similar "schools without walls" within the District's existing high schools, Miss Goins said.

The principal, formerly principal of Gordon Junior High, believes that such schools are the wave of the future, because there is no longer enough space and money to keep on building schools and because many things can be taught more effectively out in the community.

The District's newest high school is a smaller, and perhaps more conservative, version of two others—the

Parkway School, begun in Philadelphia in the fall of 1969, and Chicago's Metro High School, begun in February, 1970.

All three schools assume that high school students are mature enough to take responsibility for helping to decide what they want to learn and then for getting around the city to their various classes on their own.

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## SCHOOL, From C1

According to Miss Goins, the 30 students presently enrolled were chosen from 45 who applied after circulars were distributed in the schools.

Grades were not considered, and the principal says she has students whose records range from straight As to straight Fs. All were thought to be working below their potential, she said.

Students are being admitted under a quota system to prevent overrepresentation from any one high school or part of town.

Miss Goins said five or more students from each high school is the goal, and every school will have at least one or two sophomores in the "school without walls" within two weeks.

Among the students interviewed yesterday were sophomore alumni of Wilson, Coolidge Cardozo, Dunbar, Eastern and Anacostia.

Four full-time teachers were chosen from more than 50 applicants. Miss Goins said she made her choices on the basis of interviews. She also considered the teacher's ability to work with students, contacts in the community, and ability to develop a new course of study in a subject area.

The "school without walls" retains some of the trappings of traditional high schools. There will be tests and course grades and the usual system of awarding credits. Schedules are worked out in advance.

The subjects being offered are traditional 10th grade subjects, including

science, social studies, Spanish, and geometry. School begins at 9:10 a.m. and ends at 2:50 p.m. Most students carry five courses.

But the locations and subject contents are varied. Sixteen students yesterday, for example, finished English, social studies or art classes at the K Street headquarters at 11:45 a.m. and then left.

At 1:10 p.m. they were due at Howard University for science in a course that will use university laboratories and city hospitals to teach pharmacology, anatomy, and microbiology.

Today, school will begin in the District Building for students electing business training, a course in which Howard's department business administration is involved. This course involves

on-the-job placements in the community.

Both the Smithsonian Institution and the National Trust for Historic Preservation are offering classroom space and staff for teaching part of the history and humanities courses.

Robert Baskett, 17, of Cardozo will be taking drafting at a traditional high school and working in the offices of a local architect as part of his course work.

He said he has been interested in architecture since ninth grade, when his plans for a house won a science fair, but he could find no way to follow up this interest before.

"It's always this 'you've got to stay with the class' thing. Other schools are primarily interested in discipline," Baskett, who drop-

ped out of Cardozo for a while, said.

"There's a different atmosphere," said Keith Jones, formerly of Anacostia and fresh from Dolores Kendrick's humanities class. "You can feel it. She (Miss Kendrick) said you don't have to raise your hands, so we got into a real discussion. In school, even the progressive teachers control whether you speak or not."

Neither Miss Goins nor other school officials said they knew what the "school without walls" will cost this year.

Miss Goins said she would judge the school by its ability to "hold" its students, by changes in student attitudes, and by class attendance records and grades earned.